

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

5 1 (currently amended): A method of providing device-dependent print data to a printer by a computer system, the computer system comprising: an operating system having an upper layer for controlling a graphical device interface, and a lower layer for controlling input/output activities; the method comprising:

10 providing a printer manager for generating print data, the printer manager comprising a device-dependent converter for converting input data into device-dependent output data that is suitable for a first type of printer but not suitable for a second type of printer;

15 providing encoded data to the printer manager; the printer manager decoding the encoded data to generate raw data, and utilizing the converter to convert the raw data into the device-dependent print data without utilizing the upper layer;

20 providing the device-dependent print data to the lower layer; and the lower layer of the operating system outputting the device-dependent print data to the printer, the printer being the first type of printer.

25 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into gray-level image data and converts the gray-level image data into the device-dependent print data.

30 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into cyan-magenta-yellow-black (CMYK) image data and converts the CMYK image data into the device-dependent print data.

30 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the printer manager further comprises a user interface for configuring the printer manager, wherein the converter

converts the raw data into the device-dependent print data according to configuration information of the user interface.

5 (cancelled).

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6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) format.

7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a graphics
10 interchange format (GIF).

8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a bitmap
(BMP) format.

15 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a tag image
file format (TIFF).